

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T MANILA 13421

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OVIP, RP (ROMULO, CARLOS P.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ROMULO

REF: MANILA 13393

1. I MET WITH ROMUALDEZ MORNING SEPTEMBER 2 IN EFFORT CLARIFY CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH UNDERLAY HIS TELEPHONE CALL TO ME PREVIOUS EVENING CONCERNING MARCOS INSISTENCE ON ANSWER TO HIS AIDE MEMOIRE BEFORE "AUTHORIZING" MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

2. ROMUALDEZ CONCEDED THAT EARLIER MARCOS REQUEST FOR ROMULO MEETING WITH SECRETARY WAS MADE IN FULL REALIZATION THAT SUBJECT OF AIDE MEMOIRE WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THAT MEETING. HOWEVER, HE SAID MARCOS CAME TO CONCLUSION THAT HE COULD NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE DEFINITIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO ROMULO AND ROMUALDEZ WITHOUT KNOWING U.S. POSITION ON APPLICABILITY OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

3. FURTHER RATIONALE ADDUCED FOR TWISTS AND TURNS ON THIS MEETING CONCERNED MARCOS DESIRE THAT PUTATIVE VISIT BY SECRETARY TO MANILA SHOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. HE THEREFORE WISHED PROVIDE "POSITIVE" INSTRUCTIONS TO ROMULO, BUT FELT UNABLE DO SO IN ABSENCE SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES ON MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT TWO QUESTIONS WERE INTERTWINED AND
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THAT OUR ABILITY RESPOND TO AIDE MEMOIRE DEPENDED IN

SIGNIFICANT MEASURE ON KNOWING WHAT OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES WE WOULD HAVE FROM PHILIPPINE BASES. MOREOVER, I REMINDED ROMUALDEZ THAT IT WAS PHILIPPINE SIDE WHICH HAD INTERJECTED SUBJECT OF MDT INTO BASE NEGOTIATIONS BY RAISING REED BANK ISSUE IN PLENARY NEGOTIATING SESSION.

5. ROMUALDEZ ACKNOWLEDGED THESE POINTS, BUT SAID MARCOS WAS NOW REQUESTING THAT WE SEPARATE THE TWO SUBJECTS FOR PURPOSES OF THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. HE ASKED THAT WE ADDRESS MDT OBLIGATIONS IN ABSTRACT, AND STRESSED THAT SATISFACTORY RESPONSE WOULD RESULT IN "POSITIVE" INSTRUCTIONS TO ROMULO FOR HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

6. I THEN ASKED WHETHER MARCOS WAS SEEKING A FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO HIS AIDE MEMOIRE, OR MERELY AN INDICATION OF THE SORT OF REPLY WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE IF BASE NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY. ROMUALDEZ SAID MARCOS STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMED DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON OF THE SORT OF REPLY DESIRED IN HIS PRIVATE MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY.

7. ROMUALDEZ SAID THAT HIS CALL TO ME HAD BEEN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MARCOS AND TOOK PLACE IN MIDDLE OF NSC MEETING, WHICH CARRIED ON FOR ANOTHER HOUR AND ONE HALF AFTER OUR CONVERSATION. HE SAID MEETING REHASHED SEVERAL OLD CHESTNUTS CONCERNING MDT, MAP SUPPLIES, ETC. AS FAR AS BASE NEGOTIATIONS ISSUES WERE CONCERNED, MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE AND NO RPT NO CLARIFICATION OF "SEVEN ISSUES" EMERGED.

8. ROMUALDEZ SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO "STAND BY" PENDING WASHINGTON REPLY TO REFTEL. HE IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE MANILA SEPTEMBER 6, BUT WILL REMAIN FLEXIBLE WHILE AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS. ROMULO, HOWEVER, IS OBLIGATED TO LEAVE MANILA SEPTEMBER 12 FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN. MENDOZA HAS ALREADY LEFT SEPT. 2 FOR LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE.

9. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION ADDS VERY LITTLE TO OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED REFTEL, WHICH POSES BASIC QUESTION WASHINGTON MUST ADDRESS. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SLOWED TO
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CRAWL, WITH ONLY ONE WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 3.
SULLIVAN

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